CHAPTER 3

I'M TELLING YOU I'M NOT DOING THE MARRIAGE INTERVIEW!

AND THAT'S WHY,

HUH? HOLD ON! I DON'T THINK I HEARD YOU!

IF YOU REALLY HAVE SOMEONE THERE, THEN MAYBE YOU COULD INTRODUCE...

AH...

I'M SO HUNGRY! WELL, I'M HANGING UP!

click

Monotone.

THERE IS SOMEONE TO EAT IT WITH ME.

...

COME ON, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF COOKING!

I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL, SO I'M HANGING UP ON YOU.

YOU KNOW, BEING GOOD AT COOKING IS MORE REWARDING WHEN YOU HAVE SOMEONE ELSE TO EAT IT WITH.

...ALL RIGHT.

IT'S DONE!

I WONDER IF SHE'LL LIKE IT?

CHAPTER 3
SENSEI!
YOUR MEAL IS READY!
SIT UP...
CLINK
CLINK
CLACK

Now, say Ahhh. ♡
WHEN YOU'RE SICK, KEEPING A STRICT DIET IS A MUST!
Ah, ah, umm... I'm not sure someone like me can appreciate food like this...
tense
blush
Oh
It's deli-cious
cho
...!
mp
IT'S BEEN SEVERAL MONTHS SINCE I'VE BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF THE MANGAKA I ADMIRE SO MUCH, KUROI-SENSEI!

Haruka-san...it hurt—
Ha...
I'M TAKING CARE OF SENSEI EVERY DAY UNTIL SHE RECOVERS!
stuff
stuff
DESPITE BEING SHOCKED AT FIRST ABOUT SENSEI'S SURPRISINGLY DARK AND INTROVERTED PERSONALITY, WHICH WAS NOTHING LIKE HER FASHION SAVVY WRITING.
WE'VE BEEN INTERACTING VERY WELL...
AND THIS IS WHY...
cough
stagger
TH-THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL... I'M GOING...
To do the draft...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PLEASE GET A LITTLE REST!

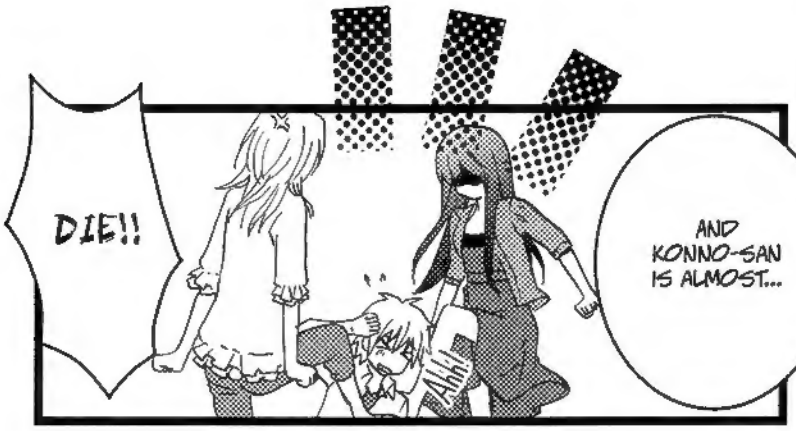
B-BUT...
IF YOU PUSH YOURSELF, YOU'LL ONLY END UP GETTING WORSE AND THEN THIS WILL ALL BE FOR NOTHING!
POK
POK
THUD
HA...
I'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE UNTIL YOU FALL ASLEEP!
IF I GO HOME NOW, THEN YOU'LL JUST TRY TO WORK AGAIN.
HARUKA-SAN?

I'VE ALWAYS LIVED A SOLITARY KIND OF LIFESTYLE.
WHENEVER I GET SICK, I'VE ALWAYS HAD TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF...
...
SEN-SEI?
IT SURE IS NICE HAVING SOMEBODY LOOK AFTER YOU...
!

It's...
It's my responsibility, so it's only natural I'd do something like this.
GAAA
!
YOU CAN RELY ON THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FOR THINGS LIKE THIS TOO, YOU KNOW!
SO...
PLEASE REST UP AND GET WELL AS SOON AS YOU CAN.
...
YES...
THANK GOODNESS SENSEI WAS GOOD FOR ME.
I WONDER IF ME SITTING HERE IS ACTUALLY HELPFUL?

WELL? HOW'S KUROI DOING?
...
WERE ALLOWING HER TO SKIP THE MANUSCRIPT, SO YOU BETTER BE TAKING GOOD CARE OF HER.
CONFIDENT!
BECAUSE I FED HER SOME OF MY HOME COOKING!
EVERY-THING'S FINE!
OH COME ON...
EVEN CALLING WHILE I'M AT WORK...
click

WHAT'S WRONG? ENJOYING THE BACHELORETTE LIFE?
ISN'T THAT ALL RIGHT? YOU'RE ABOUT THE RIGHT AGE.
NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT...
IT WAS MY MOTHER.
LATELY, ALL SHE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT IS MARRIAGE INTERVIEW...
NO WAY!
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT? YOUR BOYFRIEND?
I HONESTLY CAN'T THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE MARRIAGE...
RIGHT NOW, MY HEAD'S SO FULL OF WORK.
groan
YOU TALK LIKE YOU CAN'T HAVE BOTH. YOU CAN HAVE A MARRIAGE AND A CAREER!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN EXCUSE.
LOSERS
WINNER



AND KONNO-SAN IS ALMOST...

BUT YOU'RE HEADING FOR YOUR THIRTIES, HADA-SAN.

I'M NOT EVEN 24 YET, SO I DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING.♪

THAT'S WHY

JUST BARELY GETTING MY BELOVED KUROI-SENSEI TO BE ABLE TO DO HER JOB.

EVEN THOUGH I'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO FOCUS ON ONE THING.

I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH WORK THAT I DON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.

HUH? YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING HERE?

IT'S FINE, SO BE QUIET AND HELP.

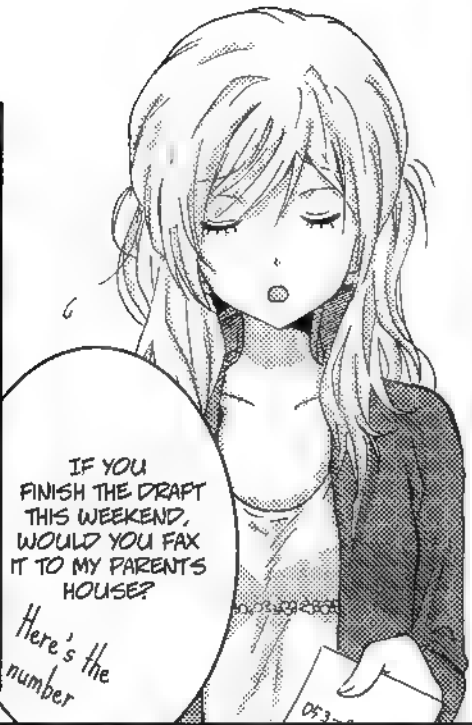
RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO BE CLOSER TO KUROI-SENSEI.

I WAS SAVED BY "WITH YOU".
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WHACK
IT MAY BE MY MOST IMPORTANT TASK TO HELP SENSEI MAKE THE BEST MANGA, BUT...
DOES SOMEONE REALLY NEED TO BE SAVED FOR THAT THOUGH?

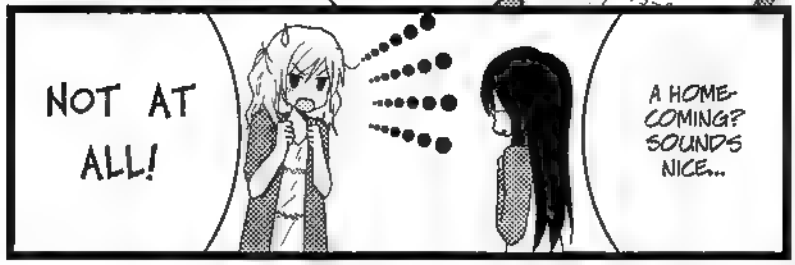
...AH!
I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD ACTUALLY FIND IT!
HERE IT IS!
HUH?
IS THIS... THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF?
BUT IT COULDN'T BE WHEN SHE WAS WRITING "WITH YOU"...
I HEARD THAT SHE WAS KUROI-SENSEI'S SUPERVISOR A LONG TIME AGO...
WHOA, WHOA, AMAZING!
THEY EVEN SAVED THE FAXES THEY USED TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER!
Super precious!

I REALLY WANT TO READ IT ALL NOW, BUT...
AH! I'M GETTING WORRIED!
THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND I ARE ABOUT...?
THIS IS FROM WHEN SENSEI WAS STILL IN HER TEENS...
flip
flip
I REALLY NEED TO GET THE DRAFT FROM SENSEI.
THERE ARE TOO MANY DISTRACTIONS TO READ IT HERE.
ふ~ふふ~
Mom
HELLO?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT CALL ME WHILE I'M AT WORK...
HUH?

SURE...


IF YOU FINISH THE DRAFT THIS WEEKEND, WOULD YOU FAX IT TO MY PARENTS HOUSE?
Here's the number

I'M SORRY,
I HAVE TO GO VISIT MY PARENTS THIS WEEK-END...


NOT AT ALL!
A HOME-COMING? SOUNDS NICE...

RECENTLY, THEY'VE REALLY BEEN PUSHING ME TO GO TO MARRIAGE INTERVIEWS.
...
MARRIAGE INTER-VIEWS?

SINCE I'M HEADING STRAIGHT TO MY PARENTS TODAY, WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO MAKE SOMETHING TO EAT?
OH,
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
PLEASE KEEP WORKING AS IF WE WERE MEETING NORMALLY.
IF ONLY SHE THOUGHT MORE ABOUT MY SITUATION, SHED REJECT THESE...
EXACTLY. MY MOM DECIDED IT ALL ON HER OWN.
...
This really is the worst.
YOU WON'T GET YOUR NOURISH-MENT!
THAT'S NO GOOD. WHAT IF YOU AREN'T FULLY RECOVERED YET?
I'm... all right... I've already recovered from my cold so...
UM...
N-NO, THANK YOU...
GRAB
I REALLY CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE WITHOUT AT LEAST COOKING YOU SOME-THING...

gasp
MAYBE I WENT OVERBOARD...
OR MAYBE I'VE BEEN HANGING AROUND TOO MUCH AND GETTING IN THE WAY OF HER WORK.

*NOTE: SWEET BEAN JELLY.

I GET IT NOW.
flip
flip
flip
AND READ IT ALL...
I TOOK THE OLD DRAFTS OF "WITH YOU" AND ALL THE MESSAGES BETWEEN SENSEI AND THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FROM BACK THEN.
SINCE I WOULD HAVE A LOT OF SPARE TIME AT MY PARENTS' HOUSE,
Thank you very much for the other day. It was fun. Meeting
It's Kuroi, Thank you very much for taking me to that wonderful store yesterday. About the progress of the draft, it's about half finished.
I have a few questions about what you think about how the plot's progressing. In case there's something that feels unnatural.
IN TOKYO, SHE LOOKED UP TO THE HARD-WORKING WOMAN THAT WAS HER EDITOR, AND WHEN HER EYES SPARKLED, THINGS BEGAN TO TAKE FORM.
SHE WAS ONLY A YOUNG TEENAGE GIRL WHEN SHE DEBUTED AS A MANGAKA.

Sensei wanted to make the kind of manga that would make the Editor-in-chief proud.
That manga was "With You"!
Kuroi is the type of author who mirrors the beauty of her daily life in her work, therefore,
The three volumes of "With You" are...
This story about heading to Shibuya.
"The hard-working Haruka who became a model" was based on the Editor-in-chief...
First, "The dark Haruka before her transformation" was based on Sensei.

AND THIS IS... THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S RESPONSE...
The speech you used in this issue was wonderful! Your good taste really shined in it! Your skill is really improving, huh! (laugh)
The last chapter was rated by far the best in the survey! This episode was especially popular because the readers really liked the
BUT BY TELLING HER LIKE THIS, I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SHE'S NOT PAMPERING HER.
SHE WAS JUST CAREFULLY TELLING HER THE DETAILS USING HER FAN'S PRAISE...
YOU CAN SEE THE RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST AND TEAMWORK THESE TWO SHARED.
FROM THESE PAGES...
TWO, THREE MORE CORRECTED DRAFTS ARE PILED UP HERE...
I DON'T KNOW HOW SENSEI RESPONDED TO SUCH STRICT SUPERVISION.
SHE HAD TO FIX THE DRAFTS SO MANY TIMES...
AND THE DRAFTS ARE COVERED IN RED COLORED CORRECTIONS.

WAS THE BIRTH OF A MASTERPIECE.
THE RESULT...
THEIR TEAMWORK REALLY RESO-NATES.
A WRITER AND AN EDITOR CREATING ONE STYLE AND MAKING SUCH A WONDERFUL THING TOGETHER.
IT'S NO GOOD. I...
...
I've made a dramatic decision! Let's go out to eat tonight!
Even though it's late at
night, could you please
Thank you very mu
And about the
I'm sorry
your assista
draft

HE WORKS AT THE LOCAL CREDIT UNION...
Oh really? I work for a Tokyo publishing company
Does your job keep you really busy?
Really? Is that so?
I PLANNED ON DOING MY BEST, BUT I CAN'T DO THIS AT ALL!
HARUKA-CHAN,
THIS IS KOMATSU-SAN.
HURRY UP...
I WANT TO GET BACK TO TOKYO.
Why, yes, it doooes!
TO RETURN AND MEET WITH SENSEI.

chatter
HELLO.
SENSEI?
Tokyo
IT'S HADA.
chatter
I JUST GOT BACK FROM MY PARENTS' HOUSE.
WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I CAME OVER TO ASK YOU SOMETHING?
SO NOW...
UM...
I WANT TO HAVE A TALK WITH SENSEI!

I'D ALSO LIKE TO BRING YOU SOME SOUVENIRS I BOUGHT.
...
THAT AND...
CAN I DRAW OUT HER TRUE POTENTIAL?
IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO SATISFY SENSEI ENOUGH FOR HER JOB?
UMM...
...
SENSEI?

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE STILL NOT FEELING WE—
I'M SORRY...
I'VE BEEN ALLOWING YOU TO SPOIL ME.
...HUH?
THE WAY OUR PARTNERSHIP HAS BEEN— YOU CARING FOR ME LIKE A NURSE— IS NOT WHAT A PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE...
YOU'VE TAKEN CARE OF ME SO MUCH, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ANYMORE...
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MY WELL-BEING ON MY OWN...
...!

IT SEEMED...
THE FAXES WERE SO DIFFERENT.
WHEN IT WAS THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF. THEY DIDN'T FIGHT LIKE THIS!
AND ABOUT OUR MEETINGS... COMING ALL THE WAY TO MY HOUSE ISN'T NECESSARY. JUST OVER THE PHONE IS FINE.
UP UNTIL NOW EVERYONE HAS BEEN DOING SO MUCH FOR ME, SO...
I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT SENDING THE DRAFT TO YOUR PARENTS' HOUSE.
I'LL FAX IT TO THE EDITING DEPARTMENT TOMORROW MORNING.
...
I... UNDER-STAND...
DID I DO SOME-THING WRONG?
...

ALL RIGHT...

WELL THEN... PLEASE EXCUSE ME...

THE FOLLOWING MONTH.

SENSEI'S CURRENT WORK, "I WANT TO BE HONEST," FELL TO 5TH PLACE IN THE SURVEY RANKINGS.

THE LOWEST RANKING IT HAD RECEIVED SINCE IT BEGAN.